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Mr Eric Newman
Newman Money Museum
Sam Fox School
Box 1213, Washington University
1 Brookings Drive
St Louis MO 63130

Dear Mr Newman,

I wish to express my thanks for opening the money museum to attendees of the Early American Coppers convention last week. I am a member of both EAC and John Reich Collectors Society and introduced myself as an Oregonian interested in bust quarters at the conclusion of the second session Friday evening. My primary interest in early quarters by Browning variety is supplemented by a focus on early dollars; especially the scarcer varieties with advanced die deterioration or an interesting die marriage.

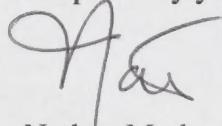
My own numismatic story began anew when happenstance led me to a scarce early cent with a dramatic terminal cud. I found myself searching out books and other numismatists well in advance of acquiring any further significant specimens. I am the fortunate recipient of counsel from the likes of Mark Borckhardt, Dave Perkins, Jim McGuigan and Jim Matthews to name a few early influences. I found your story of your early childhood collecting days quite appropriate to my own experience. Presently, I dare to suggest there are too many dollars aggressively chasing die varieties only to quickly build and dispose of the collections with little interest in learning or sharing the collections. I hope my numismatic adventure will prove more intimate and longer in duration.

This year was a special year for EAC as they invited JRCS to attend the convention. I personally contend that early american copper and silver collectors have much in common and hope that improved communication and sharing knowledge between collectors in both groups will benefit both areas of numismatics. I am personally committed to bringing the numismatists in both organizations together on a regular basis. Long after I am done collecting, I hope collectors both new and advanced can look to these organizations as a resource early and throughout their collecting years.

I wish to respond briefly to your challenge for new museum display ideas. Immediate possibilities include rotating exhibits of different series or even a die variety display. As I considered your question more intently several other scenarios emerged. A display connecting early american coins to their purchasing power at the time would interest many different viewers in my opinion. Second, an exhibit explaining die function and deterioration/emission sequence might help interest the advanced collector. Third, my own passion would be to provide a display of coinage with pedigrees and detailed discussion of the past owners lives and how they became interested in collecting...I am working to do this with my own collection. These are a few of my initial thoughts.

I thank you for taking the time to read my long letter and hope my comments not too forthright and that my ideas might be of some service to your mission with the museum. Numismatics has become a passionate diversion for me from my professional life. Your new museum is yet one more wonderful star in the universe of this collector.

Respectfully yours,



Nathan Markowitz